

Connection

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Larry Monroe

It's All About the People



I'm often asked to what I attribute the industry leading outcomes Christian Village Communities has produced over the last six years. God is richly blessing our efforts to work hard and to be good stewards of His resources. When responding to the above question I'm quick to point out one major contributing factor: it's all about the people. We are blessed at CVC to have amazing people all around us, from our talented and dedicated staff, to our supportive and engaging residents, patients and families, and of course, the faith-filled men and women who serve the organization as members of our Boards of Directors.

In order to successfully operate any organization, whether for-profit or not-for-profit like CVC, there must be excellence in operations and favorable financial outcomes, and management alone can't produce results. It takes a team of dedicated, talented people to accomplish an organization's goals, and in our case, advance the cause of our Christian ministry.

Jim Collins, author of the bestselling book *Good to Great* wrote, "Great vision without great people is irrelevant." He also said, "In determining the right people, great companies place greater weight on character attributes rather than on specific educational background, practical skills, specialized knowledge, or work experience."

Our team members have historically been a key component to our long history of excellence in Christian retirement living and healthcare for older adults. Their average employment tenure stands as a testament to their commitment, dedication and level of job satisfaction.

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the 2016 median years of employment tenure in our nation was 4.2, down from 4.6 in 2014. In the industry of health services (other than hospitals) that number drops to 3.1 years.

At CVC we employ about 400 people, and our average employment tenure is 6.3 years. Sixty-one members of our staff have been with us ten or more years. Twenty-five team members have been with us over fifteen years, and of those twenty-five, ten have worked with us over twenty-five years. Those are some amazing statistics!

In this issue of the Connection you will find articles featuring some of our dedicated employees and residents. I hope that as you read their stories you will be inspired, and as a partner in this ministry I pray that your commitment to our mission is bolstered by what you read. It truly is all about the people! ☩

LeadingAge Ohio Recognizes Christian Village Communities as Employer of Choice

Christian Village Communities is a member of LeadingAge Ohio, a trade association representing approximately 400 non-profit long-term care and hospice organizations in Ohio. LAO members serve more than 400,000 Ohioans and employ more than 35,000 persons statewide.

In 2017 LAO created the Employer of Choice Award, a process in which to recognize their members whose business practices excel in the following key categories:

- Engagement/Satisfaction
- CMS 5-Star Rating
- Financial Strength
- Turnover/Retention/Benefits
- Degree of Agency Use
- Evaluations/Resident Satisfaction
- Innovation/Culture
- Community Engagement
- Leadership Continuity



We are pleased that both The Christian Village at Mason and The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy received this prestigious recognition for 2017-2018. Donna Clifford, VP Human Resources accepted the award for Christian Village Communities at the LeadingAge Ohio annual conference in Columbus on September 14. 

CBA Foundation Hall of Faith Inducts Five Christian Leaders



The 2017 CBA Foundation's Hall of Faith Banquet was held September 29 at the Savannah Center in West Chester, OH with hundreds of guests in attendance.

Inductees into the 2017 Hall of Faith were: Jonathan and Nancy Bowers, David Lautzenheiser, and Harold and Ruth Odor. Jonathan and Harold were honored posthumously.

Shawn McMullen, Editor of The Lookout Magazine and Chair of The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy Board of Directors shared an inspiring message.

In the 27 year history of the Hall of Faith Banquet, 106 men and women have been recognized for Christian leadership and contributions in support of the ministry of Christian Village Communities. 



A Day for Seniors

By: Steve Henderson, Director of Church Relations

Ever wonder what heaven will be like? I believe that sometimes God gives us just a glimpse of what we will experience in heaven for eternity when we gather with other Christians for sweet fellowship. Such was the case at the first CVC Senior's Day. The rousing congregational singing and great gospel preaching were among the best this side of heaven!

Christian seniors from as far away as West Virginia gathered at Senior's Day at Restoration Acres in Hillsboro, Ohio, home of the Hillsboro Family Camp. The singing was amazing as voices were raised high to old familiar hymns and choruses. The Zugg family provided worship leading and special music, and Christian Village Communities' CEO, Larry Monroe, joined in with special music and blended humor as he shared a few of his memories growing up a preacher's kid. When experiencing the group singing Larry commented, "I haven't heard congregational singing like this since the days of my childhood."

Vans from The Christian Villages at Mt. Healthy and Mason transported many of our residents to the gathering. Kerry Allen, Executive Director of Person2Person Ministries was on hand to welcome the crowd to Restoration Acres. Tom Moll, Sr. Chaplain at The Christian Village at Mason provided an inspirational message entitled, "Joy Through the Ages", that was followed by a meal and the continuation of sweet fellowship.

The CBA Senior's Day is sponsored by the CBA Foundation in support of our partnership with the area churches.

We look forward to Senior's Day 2018, and expect even bigger crowds as the good news about this event spreads! 



A Stroke of Insight

- One Resident's Story of Perseverance and Determination



By: Heather Carter,
Director of Social
Services, LSW

Webster defines the word perseverance as "continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition". Many of the residents residing at Christian Village Communities have overcome significant obstacles in life. One particular individual is Richard (Dick) Chisholm.

Dick and his wife Elissa moved to a Garden Home at The Christian Village at Mason in December 2016, but not without challenges. Dick had suffered a stroke in July of that same year. He and Elissa had been living in their home in Montgomery, both very independent and involved in many activities.

Dick was an active swimmer. As a member of the Blue Ash YMCA, he was there early every morning swimming laps. He was also an active swimmer with the US Masters Swimmers. The US Masters Swimming is a community of nearly 70,000 adult fitness swimmers across the country living a healthy and active lifestyle. Dick was a competitive swimmer with USMS, winning numerous national awards and medals.

Dick wasn't always a competitive swimmer and interestingly, he never took a swimming lesson. While at Curtis High School on

Staten Island he was active with the swim team. Upon graduation he went to Bucknell University, and since at the time there was no pool at the college his focus turned to academics, graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Dick's love and joy of the water was present as he joined the Navy in 1956. He and Elissa married in 1959 and started their family. They raised 6 children. It was during the child rearing years that his swimming career accelerated. He credits his wife for encouraging him to take the kids to the YMCA for their swimming lessons.



The Chisholm's

Dick enjoyed long distance swimming and excelled in 1500 meter swims. His swimming accomplishments certainly cannot go without recognition. He has won ribbons, medals and honors with the US Masters Swim Team and Senior Olympics. One most recent honor was a Top 10 finish in 2016, prior to his stroke, in the 1500 meter freestyle.

When Dick came to The Christian Village at Mason's Grace Center for Restorative Living for rehabilitation following his stroke, he made it known that he wanted to continue swimming despite any deficits from the stroke. Early in his rehab, his family took him for an evaluation for water safety. Dick was determined to return to his usual routine of daily swimming. Many other challenges remained in the way, but Dick's love for swimming was his greatest motivation in his recovery.

As Dick continued his rehabilitation he was swimming every day. He has maintained contact with his co-swimmers from the US Masters Swim Team at the Blue Ash YMCA. He continues to swim daily at the Mason Community Center and recently competed in the Senior Olympics, winning top honors for his distance swimming.

Dick believes that this dedication and perseverance to swimming has contributed to his success throughout his stroke rehab. He referred to a book he recently received from a friend titled *My Stroke of Insight*. The book relates to how the brain heals cognitively, emotionally and spiritually. It is no coincidence that he attributes swimming as his "stroke of insight". His love of swimming and his perseverance both in the pool and in rehab are true inspirations to us all.



CBA Foundation Awards First College Scholarship

By: Donna Clifford, VP of Human Resources



At the May 16th CVC Annual Meeting the very first CBA Foundation Renewable College Scholarship was awarded to Holly Martin, one of Christian Village at Mason's Dining Service department's high school seniors. Holly is a very special and deserving employee who will be attending Northern Kentucky University this fall.

Holly has exhibited our Core Values with integrity, leadership, character, grace, compassion and faith. She consistently serves our residents with a servant's heart. She serves family, community and church with the same attributes.

The scholarship is awarded in part through the submission of an essay from employees. In Holly's essay she shared how her association with The Christian Village at Mason has impacted her life. Below is a particularly inspiring excerpt from her essay.

"A lesson I have learned (at CVM) would be leadership. My time at CVM has taught me to do a job that needs to be done, even if it's not my job. For example, if someone in the dining room didn't take out a trash can, I would take it out. As a leader, I should lead by example and not pass off work to a co-worker that I would not be willing to do myself. Teamwork and leadership go hand-in-hand."

Holly's mother attended the ceremony where the Chair of the CVC Board, Mick McLaughlin presented the scholarship. We thank Holly for investing her time, talent and affection in our residents, and wish her great success in all her future endeavors. ☀

Quality Really Matters - It's In The Stars



By: Bob Slade, VP of Operations

Search the web for the "best" long-term care nursing centers and you'll find reference to something called the CMS Star Rating System.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publishes a rating system on all skilled nursing centers across the United States. Each center is given a rating from 1 to 5 Stars, with 5 Stars being the best. The overall star rating is based on outcomes from on-site health inspections, staffing ratios and other quality measurements.

An organization's star rating is used by hospitals to help determine quality skilled nursing communities to which they may consider discharging their patients for post-acute care. In addition, many informed families reference this before admitting their loved ones into a nursing community.

I am happy to report The Christian Villages at Mason and Mt. Healthy are both currently rated 5 Star communities. We are achieving excellent health inspections during our Ohio Department of Health annual surveys. Our quality outcomes are above industry averages and our staffing ranks among the best. Only 25% of all long-term nursing facilities in the nation are distinguished by a 5 Star CMS rating, so quality really matters!

A 5 Star rating is an excellent achievement for Christian Village Communities, and will be a key part of our strategy for continued success. ☀

Memorial and Honor Gifts

Gifts Given Jan 1 - July 31, 2017

In Memory Of

Charles & Dorothy Abato

Bill & Susan Abate

Mary Anderson

Billie Lake

Lewis & Jean Beeson

Anthony Beeson

Margaret Bell

Marva Barricklow

Paul Bernhardt

John & Joan Busch

The Hessel Children

Paul & Judy

John & Joan

David

Kenny & Sue

Mark & Angel

Richard & Colleen Dallmer

Carol Evans

William & Jane Glandorf

Clyde Koehne

Dick & Mary Kothrade

William & Martha Mendez

Herbert & Allene Menkhaus

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

Helen Robertson

David & Cynthia Rodusky

Alex Betley

James & Sherry Betlej

Margaret Bolejack

Almon "Bud" & Barbara Smith

Jonathan Bowers

Glen & Terri Burkhardt

Pat Glatthaar

Ray & Fern Brestel

Dick & Jerilyn Clegg

JoAnn Butler

Phyllis Sanders

Patricia Carman

Doris Berman

Richard & Joanne Biedinger

Victor Carman

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

Edna Carter

Richard Johnson

Larry Clay

Doris Clay

Duane Cohoon

Brian & Linda Greuel

June Crabtree

E. Richard Crabtree

Richard Dallmer

Marilyn Abbott

Carol Evans

Clyde Koehne

Patricia Davidson

Joanne Hensley

Ann Kelley

Katherine Dean

Vern & Bette Dean

Edward Duritsch

Michael & Terri Tooley

Deborah Fenner

Harvey & Maryann Bream

Shirley Glorius

Vivian Barlow

Ailene Bell

Doris Berman

Richard & Joanne Biedinger

Glen & Terri Burkhardt

Don & Phyllis DeLay

Roger Grein

Ken & Evelyn McWhorter

Kimberly Meyers

Lois Miller

Robert & Helen Redmon

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

Donald & Marianne Starr

Mae Stephens

Sylvia Wagner

William Gressel

Charles & Bonnie Bauer

Mary Branham

Robert Heideman

Helen Robertson

Francois Grivois

Doris Berman

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

William Gulick

George & Elaine Breuer

Robert & Gaye Caley

Doris Dicken

Rosena Hagee

Herman & Brenda Hicks

Janet Hollett

Larry & Kathy Monroe

Dennis & Katherine Pearson

Michael Salyer

Cline & Dorothy Toney

David & Dell Walker

James & Kathleen Walker

Wayne Walker

Steve Walker

Richard Hazeltine

Lorraine Hazeltine

Kenneth Helm

Jinnie Helm

Mary Alice Hesse

Anna Hanna

Robert & Caroline Hesse

Herman & Nancy Samendinger

William & Esther Spencer

Clark & Rose Ann Stair

John & Elizabeth White

Bob & Barbie Wilkinson

Dorothy Heuer

Cheryl Bush

Robert & Jean Even

Nancy Jacob

Donald Meyer

Mark & Mary Miller

Doug & Ann Paul

Joseph & Carolyn Siebenburgen

John & Barbara Stehlin

Robert & Doris Woodruff

Iris Hille

Gertrude Becker

Richard & Joanne Biedinger

George & Elaine Breuer

Convergys

Richard & Frieda Eckert

Mark & Karen Gambill

Rosena Hagee

Anna Hanna

Stephen & Judith Harbeck

Joanne Hensley

Vicky Horton

Richard & Martha Johnson

Billie Lake

William Lytle

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

Helen Robertson

Charles & Mary Zindel

Paul Hine

David & Cynthia Bauer

Terry & Joanna Beard	Mae Lindner	Steven Phillips
Donald Bernhardt	Lloyd & Judith Lindner	Tom & Kay Moll
Linda Buescher	Salvatore "John" Maritt	Glen Pinkerton
Dick & Shirley Giwer	Sally Maritt	Elizabeth Pinkerton
Rosena Hagee	Terry & Cecile Vogler	Dorothy Rauschenberger
Thelma Hine	Marion Massmann	Marilyn Sander
Maryann Holderer	Barbara Murray	Dale & Julie Schwettmann
John & Margaret Holland	Mabel McAninch	Betty Wong
Deborah Maurer	Norman & Sally McAninch	Wilbur Ritchey
Dale & Judy McCann	Virginia Melvin	Ann Kelley
William & Joyce Mechley	Patricia Dillon	Marie Rogers
Alex & Jackie Moreland	Herbert Meyer	Joyce Adams
Loren & Rosa Noes	Marilyn Meyer	Robert & Janice Bell
Janet Ramsey	Charles Moertle	Richard & Joanne Biedinger
Lois Walker	Glenna Moertle	Marilyn Buzzia
Jonathyn & Lisa Whiteley	Glenna Moertle	Don & Phyllis DeLay
Edwin & Myrna Wilson	Kathy Griffith	Naomie Devitt
Edwin Hoeltke	Morrow Church of Christ	Doris Dicken
Ann Craig	James Moll	Carol Evans
Gilbert & Marianna Hoobler	Mark & Karen Gambill	Anna Hanna
Charles & Mary Zindel	Dorothy Monroe	Joanne Hensley
Mary Hopewell	Jennis Schwietert	Billie Lake
Grace Baumeister	Dolores Montanye	Tom & Kay Moll
Beulah "Boots" Johnson	Dean Montanye	Barbara Pettyjohn
Jimmy Johnson	Bert & Pat Morris	Helen Robertson
Martha Johnson	Ron & Liz Morris	Herman & Nancy Samendinger
Victor & Patricia Carman	LaVerne Morse	Harold Rotherum
Christ's Church at Mason	Kent & Marcia Odor	Charles & Carolyn Bonecutter
Rosena Hagee	Calvin Murphy	Kyle & Bethany Bradford
Joanne Hensley	Marilyn Abbott	Joel Cornelius
NPG Printing Professionals	George & Elaine Breuer	Doris Dicken
Harold & Fae Audre Rice	Becky Chamberlin	Linda Galle
Leon Jones	Community Christian Church	Douglas & Donna Hammond
Maryellen Jones	Kitty Garner	Anna Hanna
Charlotte Justice	Rosena Hagee	Frances Hutcherson
Betty Mason	Carl & Marilyn Padgett	Arlene Schwerin
Della Kelly	Floyd Myers	Ellen Ruff
Nora & Dallas Kelly	George & Elaine Breuer	Elmer Ruff
Jewell Koehne	Rosena Hagee	Ivy Scheffel
Clyde Koehne	Anna Hanna	Kenneth Scheffel
Robert Kraemer	Richard & Martha Johnson	Ronald Schreiber
James & Linda Eger	Steven & Beverly Linton	Doris Odor
Jane Kraemer	David & Brenda Rix	Robert Schreiber
William Kratohvil	Topsy New	Norma Souders
Anna Hanna	Arnold & Mona Burge	Vera Shipley
Norma Kraus	Betty Overstreet	Gerald Shipley
Carroll & Carol Baker	Ivan Odor	Viola Skaggs
Mitzi Kyrk	Kent & Marcia Odor	Phyllis Sanders
Phyllis Sanders		

Memorial and Honor Gifts

Gifts Given Jan 1 - July 31, 2017

Blanche Skillman

Charles Skillman

Leslie Spaeth

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

Ola Steger

Donald & Edna Ellis

Carol Evans

Joanne Hensley

Tom & Kay Moll

Barbara Pettyjohn

Helen Robertson

Erwin & Wilma Stock

Michael Stock

Rita Tenkman

Don & Pam Mortimer

Darrell Thompson

Billie Lake

John Tyrrell

Frank Bunk

Arthur Pautsch

Roger Shepler

Ida Vaught

William & Betty Krumpe

Donald Venseret

Bette Venseret

Irene Waddle

Mark & Karen Gambill

Sherman Waddle

Max Walker

Marilyn Abbott

Darrell & Jerilyn Adams

Rodney & Debbie Allen

Richard & Joanne Biedinger

Doug & Becky Bittinger

George & Elaine Breuer

Dianne Cluff

Joyce Creamer

Richard & Colleen Dallmer

Ralph & Cheryl Davidson

Carol Evans

Mark & Karen Gambill

Rosena Hagee

Carl & Carol Hager

Anna Hanna

David Hargrave

Patricia Henry Balboni

Joanne Hensley

Joanne Hopton

Gwen Jasper

Ann Kelley

Clyde Koehne

Dick & Mary Kothrade

Joyce Lappin

Dale & Judy McCann

William & Martha Mendez

Robert & Mary (Heidi) Messinger

Tom & Kay Moll

David & Donna Noll

Doris Odor

Kevin & Ginger Odor

Robert & Anne Olson

Gertrude Ombs

Carl & Marilyn Padgett

Patti Parker Gaines

John & Jennie Peter

Barbara Pettyjohn

John & Lee Ellen Pitman

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

Helen Robertson

Herman & Nancy Samendinger

Fred & Eleanor Schreiber

Robert Schreiber

Gerald Shipley

Norma Souders

Emil & Jean Toriello

Blanche Walker

Richard Walthour

Janice Whitaker

Harlan & Vivian Ziebart

Fred Westermann

Margie Westermann

Brian Dean Wheeler

Harvey & Maryann Bream

Shirley Haag

Joanne Hensley

Paul & Alice Wiener

Jack & Barbara Cottrell

Paul Wiener

Marilyn Abbott

Susan Babik

Richard & Joanne Biedinger

Violet Caldwell

Christ's Church at Mason

Jack & Barbara Cottrell

E. Richard Crabtree

Rosena Hagee

Ann Kelley

Billie Lake

Dale & Judy McCann

Tom & Kay Moll

Harold & Fae Audre Rice

Doris Wiener

Rebecca Wilcox

Naomie Devitt

Joanne Hensley

Ann Kelley

In Honor Of

Alma "Clio" Adler

Robert & Deborah Adler

James Bell

Carmine Bell

Harvey & Mary Ann Bream

Wilbur & Phyllis Dils

Christian Village Communities

Sheryl Jordan

Betty Cohoon

Jim & Susan Ekstrom

Virginia Deyer

Kathy Bolduc

Claire Drennan

Robert & Chris Braun

William & Marion Fotheringham

Terri Baroch

C.Y. Kim

Dan & Rosalie Earnest

Paul Lahman

Darwin & Lorri Briggs

Tom & Kay Moll

Rolland & Joan Wilson

Ethel Pratt

Alan & Eileen Pratt

Rosanne Russell

John & Sue Russell

Betty Sensibaugh

Wilbur & Phyllis Dils

Mae Stephens

(90th Birthday)

Richard & Joanne Biedinger

The Renewal Fitness Center



By: Lizz Stephens, VP of Business Development

One of the first questions that prospective residents often ask is, "Where are your exercise facilities?" Until recently the answer was: in the basement.

The Sales and Marketing team at The Christian Village at Mason would show prospects to the lower level of our Village Center where our fitness equipment was located. What we offered was adequate, but the location was not ideal. There was no natural sunlight and the fact that an elevator had to be used to access the space made it a challenge for residents with mobility issues.

One of Christian Village Communities' five Strategic Plan initiatives is to emphasize wellness and fitness in our communities. Last year, a task force was formed consisting of staff and residents to look at what we offered for fitness and to see how it could be enhanced. The task force concluded that our current Fitness Center location was not inspiring and up to our standards for excellence. They recommended that we investigate an alternative location.

There were two clear options: add to our existing building by constructing a new fitness facility, or, repurpose existing, underutilized areas of the building.

After engaging with an architect, the decision was made to repurpose an area that formerly housed a library, café and a portion of the existing reception area. This allowed the Fitness Center to be relocated to a new, prominent location on the main level. Understanding that the café and library were important to some residents, a substantial portion of the library was relocated just down the hall of the Village Center, and the dining room now offers complimentary coffee to those desiring a place to relax and socialize.

The Renewal Fitness Center had its grand opening on May 17. Over 100 residents attended to see this new, modern space for the first time. Renewal Fitness Center has increased square footage that allows for an expanded exercise room, fully equipped gym, changing facilities, restroom and lounge seating space. It is staffed by a full-time Director of Wellness who coordinates a wide range of programs which include everything from line dancing to group cardio, balance and mobility classes.

Investing in an improved fitness area enhances our community and demonstrates our level of commitment to the health and well-being of our current and future residents.



The Renewal Fitness Center

Expanded Exercise Room

Fully-Equipped Gym

Changing Facilities, Restroom and Lounge Seating



CVMH Residents Serving Others



CVMH Residents (LR) Kay Hicks and Mary First with children from St. Joseph Orphanage



By: Jackie Davis, Director of Life Enrichment

The residents of The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy have been engaged in several volunteer opportunities, allowing them to serve others. In 2016, Life Enrichment Coordinator Lisa Brant began taking residents to Matthew 25 Ministries once a month. M25M coordinates relief items and services for disaster-stricken areas worldwide. Our residents help with various tasks, such as sorting items, taping things together, or marking out price tags on donations. This provides a sense of accomplishment because according to M25M, one hour of volunteer service helps approximately 150 people.

Another service opportunity for our residents is volunteering at St. Joseph Orphanage. In January of 2017 our residents began visiting the children at the orphanage once a month to play bingo, word search games, and participate in other one-on-one activities. A group of twenty-five to thirty children ages 5-13 participate with our residents.

Twice a month a group of CVMH residents gather to create handmade cards for the children of the orphanage. This dedicated group generates approximately 60 cards each month.

Working in support of the orphanage is gratifying for our residents because of what their visits do for the children, many of whom struggle with challenges and behavioral issues. It's truly a volunteer grandparent opportunity!

Many times people believe that moving to a retirement home is the "end of the road", and that their life will never be the same. I believe that the residents at CVMH who are actively involved with programs like M25M and the St. Joseph Orphanage would agree that their lives have been significantly enhanced for having served others in such meaningful ways.

We are inspired by residents with a desire to serve others in meaningful ways, and through their example we are renewed in the belief that at any age, one can make a difference in someone else's life! 

Grandparents' Day Bash 2017

A Day in Honor of Residents and Families

By: Julia Creswell, Director of Community Life Services

The Christian Village at Mason celebrated its grandparents, great-grandparents, and even great-great grandparents with a huge bash on Saturday, September 9th. Grandparents' Day brought together generations to celebrate the influence of grandparents in our lives. CVM residents and their families were the honored guests.

A portion of Village Drive and the circle drive and parking spaces in front of the Village Center were roped off, to be transformed into a wonderful carnival-like atmosphere. Everyone enjoyed live, big band music and two barbershop quartets, while feasting on deliciously catered food. There was wood-fired pizza, Food Network-featured Bessie's Homemade Noodles' chicken 'n noodles, and hot dogs. There was also a variety of desserts from an old-fashioned ice cream trolley. Guests and attending staff were entertained by a caricature artist, balloon animal artist, a photo booth and more.

Larry Monroe, CEO of Christian Village Communities was on hand for a portion of the festivities. "Special activities on our campus are always a welcome treat, but this event contained so many positives. The number of activities planned by Julia and her team was impressive. I was pleased to see so many of our residents participating, and particularly gratified by the number of family members who attended. It was obvious to me as I walked through the crowd that everyone was having a grand time. I was inspired by the daughter of a resident who expressed to me her sincere appreciation for our organization, for the beauty of our campus's manicured grounds, and for the Christian care her mother receives from our compassionate staff. The weather was terrific, with mild temperatures and lots of sunshine. It was a memorable day of great fun!"

From the resident feedback we've received, the event was a great success, and we hope to host another in September 2018.



Amazing Employees...Inspiring Stories

By: Donna Clifford, VP of Human Resources



Don Benter was hired November of 2013 at The Christian Village at Mason as our Garden Home Construction Supervisor. We were grateful to welcome him because of his Christian commitment, great work ethic, trades experience and positive attitude (I defy you to find Don not smiling).

Each year Don's crew rehabs an average of 25 homes. Constructed in the 1980s, most of these homes require extensive renovation to make them suitable for new residents, and completing this work timely and expertly is critical to our ongoing success. Don's construction talent is just the beginning of his story.

Don and his wife Gerilyn both attended Cincinnati Christian University. Both had grown up in the same area and were acquaintances most of their lives. However, it wasn't until Don became a student at CCU during a time when Gerilyn worked at the college that their friendship deepened. They married in 1990, and soon daughter Afton arrived with her brother Avery not too far behind.

Amazingly, Afton graduated from CCU in 2015 and Avery graduates from the college this year! So, father, mother and both children all studied at the same college...that's remarkable. However, it gets even better.

Between Don and Gerilyn there have been thirty-four family members who are graduates of, or have attended CCU! In addition, there are more family members who have been faculty or worked in other capacities at CCU. In fact, Gerilyn's great-grandfather was a member of the very first graduating class of the university, which was then known as Cincinnati Bible College.

Don's story gets even better. His father-in-law, Russell Lieb served for a number of years on the board of the CBA Foundation, and is currently the Minister at Mt. Olive Church of Christ in New Vienna, OH.



Christine (Cris) Hauser has worked in the CVC business office since January of 1990 when she was hired by William Stauter (see article on page 13), Administrator at The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy. When CVMH was first being constructed, the original plumbing contractor was Cris's father whose last name was Plumber. Cris jokes that her dad was "Plumber the plumber". Since 1990 Cris's career has progressed from Accounts Payable to Accounts Receivable to payroll clerk, to jack-of-all-trades.

Here is where it gets crazy: Cris's father-in-law worked for twenty-one years in CVMH's Maintenance Department after he retired from a full-time sales position. Her daughter Robin worked in CVMH Dining Services as a teen, became a Nurse Aide, and then ultimately progressed to become a Registered Nurse. Robin met her husband, Tom Deubell at CVMH, who just retired after 31 years in the Maintenance Department. Her son Carl also worked in Dining Services as a teen, and later in the Maintenance department. It was at CVMH that Carl met his wife Vonita, who worked in Medical Supplies at CVMH. Cris' grandmother and father were both residents of CVMH as older adults.

Just to make one more connection...Cris is a member of Northern Hills Church of Christ where at one time she interacted with Russell Lieb, Don Benter's father-in-law!

Cris is often teased that she is the "company historian". She has seen our mission grow from one nursing home to the two beautiful campuses we have today.



Prominent Orthopedic Surgeon Holds Clinics at The Christian Village at Mason

Enhancing Resident Health Through Orthopedic Collaboration

By: Lisa Cecil, VP of Health Services

Joint pain and minor back issues are just a couple of the orthopedic concerns that some residents and patients at The Christian Village at Mason have had treated by Dr. Dirk Pruis. Dr. Pruis sees residents from the Health Center and the Village, as well as patients from our Grace Center for Restorative Living once or twice per month in the Doctor's Clinic, located in our Health Center.

In addition to his expert consultation and care, Dr. Pruis has also given cortisone injections when needed. He is well-known in the Cincinnati area, having practiced for almost thirty years, specializing in general orthopedics as well as total hip and knee replacements. Dr. Pruis has been



recognized by his peers as one of Cincinnati Magazine's "Top Doctors".

Dr. Pruis's Clinic at The Christian Village at Mason has been very well-received by our residents and patients. They have benefited from his expertise and enjoy his caring and warm personality. At the time of the writing of this article, he has seen approximately 35 patients over 5 different Clinic dates.



A Journey Back "Home"



By: Jackie Davis, Director of Life Enrichment

Bill Stauter has had a wonderful journey that has brought him full circle, back to The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy. Enjoy Bill's amazing journey, told in his own words below.

"After serving in the business world for 12 years, I became the Camp Manager at Woodland Lakes Christian Camp in Amelia, OH where I served for another 12 years. During that time, I became interested in working with seniors. I spent several years as a Trustee at CVMH, and when Executive Director Marvin Matthews retired, I expressed an interest in joining the staff.

Training under Donald Sams, I earned my Licensed Nursing Home Administrator's (LNHA) license and served as Assistant Administrator for several years, followed by another 8 years as Administrator.

At about the time The Christian Village at Mason was being constructed, I was recruited by Sherwood Evans, CEO of Sayre Christian Village in Lexington, KY. Five years later I retired and moved to Holiday, Florida, where my wife Geri and I worked part-time in the Activities Department at the community where we lived. We were there for 14 wonderful years.

When Geri died unexpectedly in February 2017 my children and I began to consider where I would next call home. All three communities where I served were considered. With my two daughters and a son close to Cincinnati, The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy became a clear decision. It has been a comfort to return to a familiar place, a place to call home."

It's such a pleasure to serve Bill and his family and we're grateful for his life, faithfully lived in the service of our Lord and Savior.



A Memorial to Christian Missionaries and Ministry Leaders

By Tom Moll, Sr. Chaplain



Following the deaths of missionaries and CVM residents Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gulick, friends and family members wanted to do something to honor their memory. Because of the faithful and sacrificial lives of these servants, it seemed appropriate to find a way to visibly commemorate their service. Then the family's idea expanded. They decided that the Gulicks would be honored in increased measure if whatever they did for them included the many full-time Christian servants who shared their Restoration Movement roots and history of service through missions work as well as vocational ministry, and who like them had lived in and were cared for by one of our Village communities.

Little did we realize how many Christian leaders from Christian Churches and Churches of Christ we have served: ministers and their wives, professors in Christian colleges, missionaries who have served all over the world, those who worked for Christian organizations in administrative capacities, served in para-church ministries, writers, editors, publishers, Christian college presidents, and many more.

CVC counts it an honor to provide homes and caring communities for all of our residents. And it is a special privilege to do this for those whose entire lives were devoted to full-time Christian service.



In the Chaplain's Lounge at CVM is an inspiring display. Sixty names are etched on the golden leaves of a Memorial Tree, and there will be more to come in the future. Beside the tree is a plaque explaining the memorial, which also honors Charlie and Susan Pater, who were lovingly attentive to the Gulick's needs during their time at CVM.

Next to the memorial tree is a beautiful piece of artwork depicting our Lord standing in a wheat field white unto harvest. It includes the following verse of scripture:

"The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out laborers into His harvest fields" (Luke 10:2).

Thank you to those whose financial gifts made this wonderful tribute possible. 



The RMD: A Great Way to Support Your Favorite Charitable Organization



Are you at least 70.5 years old and have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA)? If so, you are familiar with the IRS's required minimum distribution (RMD) rules.

At 70.5 years of age you are required to take a specific minimum amount from your IRA each calendar year. Whether or not you need or want the money is immaterial. Why would the IRS implement the RMD? Because when the savings in the IRA is converted to income to you at distribution, it's taxable to you!

If you are in a position where you really don't need the money, but face the fact that you will have to pay taxes on it, you do have alternatives.

If you itemize your deductions you could give the RMD amount you receive to a qualified 501(c)3 charitable organization. The subsequent charitable tax deduction may offset the income* and you'll realize no net increase of income taxes.

You may also elect to have your RMD sent directly to a qualifying charitable organization via the IRA Charitable Rollover. With the rollover, you won't have to claim the RMD amount as income for tax purposes. Either way, you avoid the tax on income you don't need, and you're helping one or more of your favorite ministries. **

Christian Village Communities and its affiliate organizations are all IRS-qualifying 501(c)3 charitable organizations. The Mission of the CBA Foundation is to support the core ministry of Christian Village Communities by providing grants to qualifying individuals who need special assistance in support of critical financial needs. Your gifts to the foundation help make it possible for us to impact the lives of so many in Jesus' name.

For more information about the RMD as a gift source, or if you have questions about other forms of giving, please contact Larry Monroe at larry.monroe@christianvillages.org, or by phone at 513-701-3435. 

*Cash gifts are deductible up to 50% of adjusted gross income.

** IRA Rollover is subject to \$100,000 maximum.



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If you have an address change or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please email rhonda.closson@christianvillages.org



The Christian Benevolent Association does not discriminate on basis of race, sex, religion, age, qualified handicap, or veteran.

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The Christian Village at Mt. Healthy
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Cincinnati, OH 45231
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The mission of Christian Village Communities is to guide older adults to joyful and purposeful life experiences in a faith-filled community.

Care is the heart and soul of everything we do. We are devoted to maintaining the highest standards of expertise and service in health and wellness. We are committed to serving each person as though they were our own family; with love, compassion and excellence.

Activities And Events

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.christianvillages.org

